Stock availability of edible oil in the Depots of North Eastern States as on 15-2-1991

Depots		Quantity (in MTS)
Dimapur		
(1) Kher Mahal (CWC)		230
(2) Vikas Trading Army Supply Road (Private)		
Guwahati		
(1) Maidan Gaon	State Warehousing Corporation (Private)	140
(2 Panjabari		
(3) Panikhetia		
Silchar		
(1) Malugram	(State Warehousiqg Corporation)	130

Procurement prices of sugarcane and Mushroom

39. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANTA BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procurement prices of sugarcane and mushroom have been raised in January this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any fresh norms and guidelines have been laid down for fixation of the procurement prices of various agricultural products from time to time, in the light of the recent recommendation of the High-powered Committee on Agricultural policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b) The Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane for 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons announced in November, 1990 have not bee revised.

Mushroom is not covered by the Government's price policy for agricultural commodities under which procurement/minimum support prices are announced. However, in 1991, the Government have decided to undertake market intervention operations to procure a specified quantity of mushroom at a price of Rs. 22 per kg. in Haryana on terms and conditions agreed to with the Government of Haryana.

(c) The recommendations of the High Powered Committee on Agriculture Policy and Programmes are being examined.

Rise in prices of fertilizers

40. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's fertilizer industry has been critically affected due to escalation of the Gulf War;

(b) whether the prices of Naptha and raw material for Nitrogenous fertilizers and of finished fertilizers are going up due to increase in crude prices in the internal markets;

(c) whether Government propose to import Naphtha fertilizers to meet

the widening gap between its demand and supply; and

(d) if so, what other steps Government propose to take to save the fertilizer industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) While the nitrogenous fertilizer industry has not been affected, the phosphatic fertilizer units which depend on imported intermediates, have been partially affected due to the Gulf War.

(b) The prices of Naphtha and other petroleum products used for fertilizer production have gone up on account of 25 per cent Gulf Surcharge, Similarly, the price of imported fertilizers is also showing an upward trend. However, the selling price of fertilizer has not been increased in the country.

(c) Fertilizers will be imported, as hitherto, to bridge the gap between the assessed demand and indigenous supply.

(d) No other steps are under consideration at present in this regard.

Amendment of building bye-laws in Delhi

41. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently asked the Delhi Administration to review the decision amending the building bye-laws in the capital;

(b) if so, by when the Delhi Administration would submit its detailed report to Government;

(c) what changes are likely to be made in the building bye-laws; and

(d) to what extent it would curb mushroom growth of illegal constructions in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DAULAT RAM SARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The question of revising the recent amendment to the Building Bye-laws in Delhi is under examination.

Fire in Delhi bound Rajdhani Express

42. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Bound Rajdhani Express which left Bombay on the 20/21-1-1991 has caught fire;

(b) if so, the causes of the accident; and

(c) the loss of life and property as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Vestibule provided between coach Nos. C4 and C5 caught fire while running beween Kosamba Jn. and Panoli stations in Vadodara Division.

(b) The fire is suspected to be caused by burning cigarette butts inadvertently thrown by passengers.

(c) There was no loss of life. Loss of railway property is estimated to be Rs. 460/-.

Assistance to Housing Boards of various States

43. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Housing Boards have been get-